

Carroll, Rhonda

From: Enid Breakstone <queeniefound@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 24, 2016 11:28 AM
To: JudTestimony
Subject: Testimony for 2/24 public hearing-- SUPPORT HB 5344 (support for animals that are victims of cruelty)

Dear Co-Chair Coleman, Co-Chair Tong, and Honorable Members of the Judiciary Committee,

Please accept this as my testimony in **SUPPORT of HB 5344**, An Act Concerning Support for Animals that are Neglected or Treated Cruelly.

I vote and this issue is urgent to me.

I support HB 5344 because:

- Research has established strong links between violent behaviors toward humans and violent behaviors toward animals.
- Law enforcement agencies must take violence toward animals seriously, and prosecutions must be encouraged. A disturbing OLR report ([2015-R-0262](#)) found that between 2005-15, 80% of animal cruelty offenses were either not prosecuted or dismissed.
- Having court advocates for animals would be done at no cost by enlisting volunteer representation for animals from law students and law firms.
- Teaching humans to behave with kindness and respect toward animals will help to build a more humane society.

I received my Master's in Humane Education several years ago and have run a non-profit animal welfare organization for 20 years. As such, I am intimately knowledgeable of the animal abuse/child abuse/adult violent behavior link. In fact, we have a program wherein we go into schools from time to time to speak to students to promote kindness to animals. As with most issues, it overlaps into other arenas, mainly that being kind to animals teaches children and adults to be kind to each other. This is what advocates have been working toward for decades.

Please vote in favor of a kind and compassionate Connecticut.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Yours truly,
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